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NEWS
FROM YOUR MUSEUM
THE ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

Know your Museum better

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ORNITHOLOGISTS HONOUR CURATOR OF BIRDS

Mr. L. L. Snyder, curator of birds at the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, was made a Fellow of the American Ornithological Union at their annual meeting held at the Museum in September. Fellowship is limited to fifty members in the United States, Canada and Newfoundland.

Mr. Snyder has been associated with the Royal Ontario Museum for thirty years. Canada's outstanding scientific ornithologist, Mr. Snyder has written a great many scientific bird papers. He is well known to naturalists through his popular lectures on birds, and largely due to his activities, the Royal Ontario Museum boasts one of the largest bird collections on this continent. Mr. Snyder was responsible for organizing field expeditions to various parts of Ontario, and as a result of them our knowledge of bird life in the province is so extensive.

MUSEUM EXHIBITS IKONS

An exhibition of a small group of ikons and related objects of religious art will be held in the Special Exhibition Gallery of The Royal Ontario Museum of Archaeology from October 1st to 31st.

The Museum collection, while not large, is representative. Examples of the Nottingham school of alabaster sculpture are shown, together with some Continental specimens. Ikons include those painted in Greece, particularly in Mount Athos, and also in Russia, as well as intricately carved box-wood crosses and plaques to be carried in the pocket as an aid to private devotion. A late Russian example in silver and transparent enamel is reminiscent of Fabergé, court jeweller to the Imperial family and is jewel-like in its fineness and delicacy.

TOURISTS STUDY NATURAL HISTORY

In their thousands this summer, tourists from every corner of Canada and the United States signed the register at Algonquin Park Museum. Sponsored by the Ontario department of Lands and Forests, and under the direction of Professor J. R. Dymond, Royal Ontario Museum, this exhibition of examples of the flora, fauna and geology of the famous Park is part of an extensive program to make visitors acquainted in a more intimate way with the trees and wildlife they will see on their walks along woodland trails or beside one of the endless series of glittering lakes. Questions about the Algonquin conifers, the land plants and bog plants; or about the birds, mammals or rocks of the great sanctuary are encouraged and answered by competent naturalists. In addition to this service for tourists, lectures have been given at regular intervals by professors from the Royal Ontario Museum or University of Toronto. They dealt with the Park's fascinating history, with wildlife research therein, the Indians of North America, and a subject near to the hearts of anglers—fish ecology. This educational service supplemented by "hikes" with trained leaders, has brought many expressions of appreciation from tourists and campers, for it has enriched their memories of Algonquin Park, and in many instances initiated a lasting interest and study in the absorbing field of natural history.

ONTARIO'S TEXTILE HERITAGE

At the Canadian National Exhibition the Royal Ontario Museum started something that is already rolling up like a snowball. The Museum's exhibit showed textiles made and used in the early days of Ontario, and it carried to all who saw it a plea to help in the preservation of our textile heritage.

Before the methods our grandmothers used in spinning and weaving are forgotten and before moths and mildew destroy the beautiful fabrics they made, let us see that as complete a record as possible is made. The only way that this can be done is with the help of everybody in this province who has knowledge of these matters. Let the Textile Department, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, know about early textile tool, workshops, factories and fabrics. Even small pieces of cloth are of interest, when it is known when and how they were made.

If each person contributes what they can, a fascinating picture of early life in Ontario, and the slow development from home industry to our great textile factories, will emerge. Let us all help in recording and preserving our textile heritage.

PALEORMA REVEALS LIFE IN A PREHISTORIC SEA

About 350 million years ago, in the Ordovician period of geological history, the area we know as Southern Ontario, which includes the Toronto district, was covered by the sea. This sea, when it receded left behind sediments in the form of muds, sands and limy oozes that eventually hardened into stratified rocks. These rocks (shales and limy sandstones) underlie the general region mentioned. Rivers such as the Humber, Don and Credit have cut portions of their valleys through certain of these sea-made rocks. If one examines these rocks carefully, fossilized remains of the shell-fish that lived in the ancient sea may be found. Examples of many of these fossil organisms are exhibited in the Palaeontology galleries of the Royal Ontario Museum.

Now visitors to the Royal Ontario Museum can see life-like restorations of the most characteristic of these ancient animals in a "Paleorma" which has been installed in the galleries of Palaeontology, the first of its kind in Canada.

These restorations, based directly upon a study of the actual fossils, include Cephalopods the Devil-Fish of the far-off day. These creatures were in all probability the most predaceous form of life of their time and some are known to have reached a length of 17 feet. The Trilobites were perhaps the next most spectacular form of life. They are remotely related to the lobster, crab and crayfish of today, and will be readily recognized by their segmented bodies.

Besides these creatures, a host of other extinct shell-fish are shown, including brilliantly coloured Corals; superb colonies of Bryozoa, popularly known as moss animals; dainty Crinoids or Sea-lilies, as well as numerous Brachiopods (lampshells), Snails and Clams.

COMING EVENTS

Oct. 2, 3 & 4, 8.30 p.m.—"MEXICAN HOLIDAY." Color Film Travelogue with Robert Friers, Narrator, in First Canadian appearance.
Oct. 9, 10 & 11, 8.30 p.m.—"MACBETH" by William Shakespeare. New Play Society.